Karen may be threat to Upstate

Heavy rain, storms could arrive Monday

By David Dykes
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Weather experts said remnants of Tropical Storm Karen threaten the Upstate late this weekend, with heavy rain and severe thunderstorms possible before daybreak Monday.

Forecasters put the storm on a more eastward track, away from the region, once it moves into South Carolina, likely as a tropical depression.

Still, the National Weather Service said a strong cold front will approach the area from the west and begin to draw tropical moisture from Karen on Sunday night.

Forecasters said severe thunderstorms, flash flooding and tornadoes will continue to threaten as Karen's remnants cross the Upstate.

Weather Service meteorologists predict three-quarters of an inch of rain in the Greenville-Spartanburg area Sunday night and another inch Monday.

The weather should clear Tuesday, with the high temperature approaching the mid-70s, forecasters said.



This image provided by NOAA shows Tropical Storm Karen as it makes its way toward the northern Gulf Coast. The storm is expected to weaken before it reaches South Carolina, but could possibly bring heavy rains to the Upstate on Sunday. AP/NOAA

Residents of a vulnerable Louisiana island town were ordered to leave Friday as Karen tracked toward the northern Gulf coast, weakening but poised to be the first named storm to hit the U.S. in a relatively quiet hurricane season, The Associated Press reported.

Grand Isle, La., Mayor David Camardelle ordered the evacuation of his barrier island community, where the only way out is a single flood-prone highway.

National Hurricane Center forecasters expect Karen to be near the central Gulf Coast today as a weak hurricane or tropical storm. Along with strong winds, the storm was expected to produce rainfall of three to six inches through Sunday night.

- The AP contributed